



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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CRIME VICTIMS TO TAKE SPECIAL PRISON TOUR ON THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Event is part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week

TOWSON, MD (April 5, 2005)--- Demonstrating another effort to reach out and offer compassionate treatment and important information for crime victims, the Maryland Division of Correction will offer a special tour of the Herman L. Toulson Boot Camp in Jessup on Thursday, April 14 at 9 a.m. More than 40 victims and victim service providers will be able to see firsthand the living conditions, daily routines, and obligations faced by inmates.

Past tours have resulted in some healing for crime victims, in that they can see inmates are not "coddled" or "treated to a life of luxury." The tours are a reminder that victim services are a priority at every level of the DPSCS system, which DPSCS Secretary Mary Ann Saar says is a far cry from what the mindset used to be. "I think it's important to do this for the victims because for so many years, they were the forgotten piece of the criminal justice system. Actually, they need to be the centerpiece," says the Secretary.

This year's tour comes during a week filled with activities across Maryland which include a victims' services open house, memorial services, and fundraisers for victims' rights causes.

WHAT: Prison tour for victims and victim advocates
WHEN: Thursday, April 14 at 9 a.m.

WHERE: Herman L. Toulson Boot Camp, off Brock Bridge
Road just south of Maryland route 175 in Jessup

NOTE: Members of the media wishing to go on the tour must call in
advance to either phone number above and arrive by 8:30.

**NATIONAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK 2005:
"JUSTICE ISN'T SERVED UNTIL CRIME VICTIMS ARE."**